



Date: August 20, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending August 20, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending August 20, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

On August 17, at a public budget workshop, the City Manager formally presented the \$1.84 billion FY 05 Proposed Budget and Mayor Beverly O'Neill presented her budget recommendations. Included in the total citywide budget is the \$372 million General Fund budget. The FY 05 Proposed Budget reduces the City's structural deficit in the General Fund by \$33 million, while continuing to focus the organization on needed optimization and efficiency efforts, operational and staffing cost reductions, increased fees to ensure cost recovery for City services, and a reduced reliance on one-time resources.

A series of public workshops and hearings will be held during the months of August and September. The City Council will study and deliberate on the FY 05 Proposed Budget and may recommend changes prior to its adoption. The public is invited to learn more about the FY 05 Proposed Budget and provide input to the City Council during these meetings. For more information on the budget adoption deliberations, please visit the City's website at www.longbeach.gov or call (562) 570-6425.

Community Development and Planning and Building

Staff presented the Douglas Park Proposal at a Study Session of the City of Long Beach Planning Commission August 19 at City Hall. Staff presentations included an overview of the current proposal, the Master Plan and Land Use issues, and the Environmental Impact Review, which includes a review of the proposed mitigation measures and impacts of the project on the environment. The Power Point presentation on the current plan is available on the City's website at www.longbeach.gov.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Community Development and Planning and Building

Future public hearing on the Douglas Park Proposal will provide opportunity for public input on the project. Currently, the public hearings are scheduled as follows:

- October 7, Planning Commission, Public Hearing
- October 21, Continuation of Planning Commission Public Hearing (if necessary)
- November 9 or 16, City Council, Public Hearing

Public Works Department, Stormwater Management Division

On August 16, the Harbor Commissioners of the City of Long Beach approved a two-year sponsorship of the City's Adopt-A-Waterway Program at a cost of \$70,000. Yvonne R. Smith, Director of Communications, recommended the continued sponsorship because the program benefits the City of Long Beach Clean Water Program's Stormwater Pollution and Education outreach efforts and helps reinforce the goals of the Port's Healthy Harbor initiative.

Library Services

The California Council for the Humanities awarded three *California Stories Uncovered* library reading and discussion grants to the Department of Library Services. Each grant will provide \$1,000.00 to support library programs. Main Library will provide multi-generational programs, and Bay Shore and Burnett neighborhood libraries will work with their local communities to provide book discussions and local history programs.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The Neighborhood Services Bureau held their 11th Neighborhood Leadership Program graduation on August 14. The ceremony honored 22 graduates who completed the five-month leadership development program that provided them with tools and resources to become effective community organizers.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Business Operations Bureau

The Parks, Recreation and Marine fall schedule of classes and programs was mailed to all Long Beach residences on August 16. The publication includes information about recreation classes, after school programs, winter break activities, and a calendar of special events and program dates. Visit the Department's website at www.longbeach.gov for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Redevelopment Agency is scheduled to select a consultant to prepare an Independent Study of Redevelopment at its regular meeting on **August 23**.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Fire

The Long Beach Fire Department's Kids program will visit the children at Miller Children's Hospital for their annual "Beach Fest" on **August 27**. Off-duty fire personnel will offer face painting, hula dancing and game playing and will generate some smiling faces.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On **August 26 at 5:30 p.m.**, Rancho Los Cerritos will host its final summer concert, featuring solo guitarist Thomas Betke, performing classical and Spanish tunes. Gates to the gardens open at 5:00 p.m. for picnicking and the historic adobe will remain open for tours until 7:00 p.m. The concert, underwritten by Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, is free.

The Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation will host a gala on **August 28** to raise funds for restoration projects and educational enhancements at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site. "A Night in Old California" will feature themed 1840s activities during the cocktail hour, followed by dinner and a live auction. For ticket information, please contact Sally Bach, Development Officer for the Foundation, at 570-1755.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

The West Division Community Policing team recently visited patients at Miller Children's Hospital. Most of these children are subjected to uncomfortable medical treatments and procedures. An effort to collect movies in VHS and DVD formats is being coordinated to help fill the children's monotonous hours spent confined to a bed. Anyone who wishes to donate a PG or G-rated movie should contact Marcia Rhone at 570-3463 or Corporal Harry Erickson at 570-7448.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,146 emergency calls for service: 130 calls for fires, of which 17 involved structures. It also responded to 711 emergency medical calls; of which 489 required paramedics.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On August 12, the Neighborhood Resource Center hosted a "West Nile Virus Workshop" including several panelists from the Department of Health and Human Services' Environmental Health and Preventive Health Bureaus. Over 40 residents attended the workshop focusing on how to eliminate mosquitoes.

Residents from the Willmore Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area organized a community-wide clean up on August 14. Three dumpsters were placed in different locations throughout the NIS area - all of the dumpsters were filled by 11:00 am. More than 75 area residents supported the event.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

The 13 young people working on the Summer Youth Sidewalk Program have completed two projects since starting work on July 26 – one near Poly High School and one near Willard Elementary School.

Staff from the Neighborhood Services Bureau visited all of the businesses facing Magnolia Avenue between Anaheim and Pacific Coast Highway to encourage business owners to take advantage of the \$2,000 Commercial Improvement Rebate Program. This activity is part of the ongoing effort to improve the Washington Middle School Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The Houghton Park Skate Park project is 90% completed. At Daryle Black Memorial Park, installation of the play equipment and site furnishings are underway and irrigation work has started. At Market and Dairy Park, the planting is completed and the sod installed. At California Recreation Center, the final walkthrough for acceptance of the gymnasium floor was conducted. ADA work is continuing at MacArthur, Silverado, and Whaley Parks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

On August 11, staff made a presentation to the West Long Beach PAC (Project Area Committee) on the features of the Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Program and its benefits to Long Beach-based businesses.

In the weekly period August 9-14, a total of 43 Enterprise Zone vouchers were issued to eight companies. This brings the year-to-date total to 4,185 vouchers issued to 211 companies. Each voucher represents the hiring of an economically disadvantaged person.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The International Sea Festival Sand Sculpture was held at Granada Beach on August 14, and was attended by approximately 1,000 participants and spectators.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

El Dorado East Regional Park was host to more than 1,500 participants and spectators for the semi-finals and finals of the Sun & Surf International Soccer Tournament, held August 14 through 16 on the park's archery range.

At the annual Mud Mania event on August 15, over 600 visitors enjoyed a muddy, fun and educational day at Rancho Los Cerritos. The event featured activities that showcased adobe construction, archaeology, soil improvements, and pottery. The Witcher Brothers performed live bluegrass music, and a kiddie corral accommodated "budding architects" under three years of age. More than 60 volunteers from Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, Long Beach City College's Anthropology Club and nearby high schools helped make the day a success.

SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Long Beach Jazz Festival, with an estimated attendance of 8,000, was held August 13-15, at the Rainbow Lagoon.

The Long Beach Celtic Festival, with an estimated attendance of 3,000, was held August 14 at Queen Mary Events Park.

CBS Productions, with a cast and crew of 100, filmed "CSI Miami" on August 17 at Cabrillo High School.

Granite Productions, with a cast and crew of 80, shot the TV series "Clubhouse" on August 19 and 20 at Blair Field.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Public Works, Street Maintenance Division

Staff installed 234 sidewalk patches, repaired 597 potholes and trimmed 521 trees citywide.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,938 service calls during the week of August 8 through August 14. This total included 1,003 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 905 Turn Off orders. There were 876 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders and verifying read orders. A total of 154 meter maintenance and billing related orders were completed. Of the total number of service calls received, 96 customer emergency orders were completed.

GRM:CK:kp:jmo
8/20/2004 Weekly Update.doc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
City Manager Department Heads
Kathy Parsons, Public Information Officer
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison